Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A polarizer containing a dichroic material in a matrix, wherein an in–plane retardation at a measurement wavelength providing no absorption is in a range of 950 to 1350 nm.

2. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein a differential retardation fluctuation (σ) at the measurement wavelength providing no absorption is in a range of –5 nm/mm to 5 nm/mm.

3. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein at the measurement wavelength providing no absorption, a distance between a measurement position providing a maximum value of the in–plane retardation and a measurement position providing a minimum value of the in–plane retardation is in a range not more than 10 mm or not less than 100 mm, and a difference between the maximum value and the minimum value (in–plane retardation variation) is less than 60 nm.

4. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the measurement wavelength is in a range of 800 to 1500 nm.

5. (Original) The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein the measurement wavelength is 1000 nm.

6. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the matrix is a polymer film.

7. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 6, wherein the polymer film is a polyvinyl alcohol film.

8. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 1, which is chip–cut.

9. (Original): An optical film comprising the polarizer according to claim 1.

10. (Original): The optical film according to claim 9, which further comprises a transparent protective layer, and the transparent protective layer is arranged on at least one surface of the polarizer.

11. (Currently amended): The ~~polarizing plate~~ optical film according to claim 9, wherein a pressure–sensitive adhesive layer is arranged on at least one outermost surface layer.

12. (Original): The optical film according to claim 9, which further comprises at least either a polarization converter or a retardation film.

13. (Original): The optical film according to claim 12, wherein the polarization converter is either an anisotropic reflective polarizer or an anisotropic light–scattering polarizer.

14. (Currently amended): A liquid crystal panel comprising at least ~~either~~ the polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or the optical film according to claim 9~~, wherein the polarizer ~~or the optical film~~ is arranged on at least one surface of a liquid crystal cell.

15. (Original): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel according to claim 14.

16. (Original): The liquid crystal display according to claim 15, which has a flat light source for emitting polarized light.

17. (Currently amended): An image display device comprising at least ~~either~~ the polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or the optical film according to claim 9~~.

18. (Original): The image display device according to claim 17, which is an electroluminescent display.

19. (Currently amended): An in–house production method for producing the image display device according to claim 17, which comprises a process of chip–cutting at least ~~either the~~ a polarizer ~~according to claim 1 or the optical film according to claim 9~~ containing a dichroic material in a matrix, wherein an in–plane retardation at a measurement wavelength providing no absorption is in a range of 950 to 1350 nm, and immediately bonding to the display device.

20. (New): A liquid crystal panel comprising at least the optical film according to claim 9, wherein the optical film is arranged on at least one surface of a liquid crystal cell.

21. (New): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel according to claim 20.

22. (New): The liquid crystal display according to claim 21, which has a flat light source for emitting polarized light.

23. (New): An image display device comprising at least the optical film according to claim 9.

24. (New): The image display device according to claim 23, which is an electroluminescent display.

25. (New): An in–house production method for producing the image display device according to claim 17, which comprises a process of chip-cutting at least an optical film comprising a polarizer, the polarizer containing a dichroic material in a matrix, wherein an in–plane retardation at a measurement wavelength providing no absorption is in a range of 950 to 1350 nm, and immediately bonding to the display device.